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065123.0106

PATENT APPLICATION
09/398,987

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conflicts with claim 42

the sliding loop ~~not~~ operable to releasably engage and disengage the fishing line with the eye of the fishing device; and

the sliding loop having a diameter which may be decreased by movement of the sliding loop knot to releasably engage the fishing line with the eye by clenching the sliding loop against the eye and which may be increased by movement of the sliding loop knot to allow movement of the sliding loop over the blocker and disengagement of the sliding loop from the eye.

REMARKS

This Application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action mailed June 6, 2002. At the time of the Office Action, Claims 42-44, 46 and 47 were pending in this application. Claims 42-44, 46 and 47 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a). To expedite prosecution, Applicant has cancelled Claim 46 without prejudice or disclaimer, amended Claim 42 and added new Claim 48. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and favorable action in this case.

IN THE DRAWINGS

The Examiner objected to the drawings under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The Examiner stated that the blocker projecting inward with respect to the distal end must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s). To expedite allowance and further clarify the invention, Applicant has cancelled Claim 46 without prejudice. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and favorable action in this case.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 42-44 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 3,936,971 issued to Welbourne D. McGahee (hereafter "McGahee") in view of "The Uni-Knot" and Flye, Sr. Claim 42 has been amended to call for various features including "a generally circular configuration... a permanently formed gap" and "a blocker formed on the eye as an integral part thereof without crossing the shank with the blocker"; which is neither shown nor taught by McGahee, the Uni-Knot and/or Flye, Sr.

Applicant requests withdrawal of all rejections and allowance of Claim 42 as amended and Claims 43, 44, 47 and 48, which depend directly or indirectly from Claim 42.

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New claim 49 calls for various features including "a blocker formed on the eye without any portion of the eye or the blocker crossing the shank...."

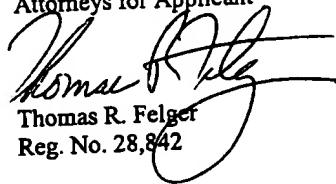
CONCLUSION

Applicant has made an earnest effort to place this case in condition for allowance in light of the amendments and remarks set forth above. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and full allowance of all pending claims as amended and new Claims 48 and 49.

Applicant believes no fee is due, however, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-0384 of Baker Botts L.L.P.

If the Examiner feels that a telephone conference would advance prosecution of this application in any manner, the Examiner is invited to contact Thomas R. Felger, Attorney for Applicant, at the Examiner's convenience at 512.322.2599.

Respectfully submitted,
BAKER BOTTS L.L.P.
Attorneys for Applicant



Thomas R. Felger
Reg. No. 28,842

Date: December 5, 2002

Correspondence Address:

2001 Ross Avenue
Dallas, TX 75201-2980
214.953.6500
214.953.6503 (Fax)

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Version with Markings to Show Changes Made**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend Claim 42 and add new Claim 48 as set out below.

42. (Three Times Amended) A fishing apparatus including a fishing device defined in part by a shank with a hook disposed at a first end of the shank and an eye disposed at a second end of the shank, the fishing apparatus comprising:

a fishing line having a first end with a sliding loop formed on the first end of the fishing line by a sliding loop knot;

the eye having a generally circular configuration defined in part by a distal end disposed adjacent to and permanently spaced from the shank to permanently form a gap disposed between the distal end of the eye and the shank;

the gap size to accommodate engagement and disengagement of the sliding loop with the eye;

the sliding loop knot operable to releasably engage and disengage the fishing line with the eye of the fishing device;

a blocker formed on the eye as an integral part thereof without crossing the shank with the blocker;

the blocker projecting from the distal end of the eye to prevent the sliding loop from sliding off of the eye;

the sliding loop having a diameter which may be decreased by movement of the sliding loop knot to releasably engage the fishing line with the eye by clinching the sliding loop against the eye and which may be increased by movement of the sliding loop knot to allow movement of the sliding loop over the blocker and disengagement of the sliding loop from the eye;

the sliding loop knot defined in part by a first loop and a second loop disposed adjacent to each other and adjacent to a central portion of the fishing line;

a free end of the fishing line wrapped multiple times around the central portion and through the first loop and the second loop and drawn away from the first loop and the second loop to form the sliding loop knot on the first end of the fishing line; and

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Version with Markings to Show Changes Made

the sliding loop knot operable for movement along the central portion of the fishing line to allow engaging and disengaging the sliding loop knot with the eye of the fishing device.

Please cancel Claim 46 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please add the following new Claims 48 and 49.

48. (New) The fishing apparatus of Claim 42 wherein the blocker further comprises a barb.

49. (New) A fishing apparatus including a fishing device defined in part by a shank with a hook disposed at one end of the shank and an eye disposed at a second end of the shank, the apparatus comprising:

a fishing line having a first end with a sliding loop formed on the first end of the fishing line by a sliding loop knot;

the eye having a distal end disposed adjacent to and permanently spaced from the shank to accommodate engagement and disengagement of the sliding loop with the eye;

a blocker formed on the eye without any portion of the eye or the blocker crossing the shank;

the blocker projecting from the distal end of the eye to prevent the sliding loop from sliding off of the eye;

the sliding loop not operable to releasably engage and disengage the fishing line with the eye of the fishing device; and

the sliding loop having a diameter which may be decreased by movement of the sliding loop knot to releasably engage the fishing line with the eye by clutching the sliding loop against the eye and which may be increased by movement of the sliding loop knot to allow movement of the sliding loop over the blocker and disengagement of the sliding loop from the eye.

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